

WE CLAIM:

1. An elevator brake, comprising:
a rotor (40);
movable first and second brake plates (42, 43), the first and second brake plates being independently actuatable into engagement with a different one of two zones (46a, 46b) on one side (48) of the rotor.
2. The brake according to claim 1, further comprising a stationary housing (20) facing an opposite side (49) of the rotor, wherein the rotor is urged toward the stationary housing when either of the first and second brake plates engages the rotor.
3. The brake according to claim 2, further comprising a rear brake lining (47) disposed on the opposite side of the rotor, wherein the rear brake lining engages the stationary housing when the rotor is urged toward the stationary housing.
4. The brake according to claim 1, further comprising:
first and second springs (36, 37) biasing the first and second brake plates, respectively, toward the rotor; and
independently actuatable first and second electromagnets (32, 33) for overcoming the bias of the first and second springs, respectively, to hold the first and second brake plates away from the rotor.
5. The brake according to claim 1, wherein the two zones of the rotor are annular and concentric.
6. The brake according to claim 5, further comprising a front brake lining (46) disposed on the one side of the rotor, the front brake lining being disposed on the two concentric annular zones.

7. The brake according to claim 6, wherein the front brake lining includes two portions that are not integral with one another, each portion being disposed on a different one of the concentric annular zones.
8. The brake according to claim 1, wherein the first and second brake plates have generally semi-annular braking surfaces that oppose different sectors of the one side of the rotor.
9. An elevator brake, comprising:
 - a rotor (40) having two concentric annular zones (46a, 46b) on one side (48) thereof;
 - movable first and second brake plates (42, 43), the first and second brake plates being independently actuatable into engagement with a different one of the annular zones of the rotor;
 - first and second springs (36, 37) biasing the first and second brake plates, respectively, toward the rotor;
 - independently actuatable first and second electromagnets (32, 33) for overcoming the bias of the first and second springs, respectively, to hold the first and second brake plates away from the rotor; and
 - a stationary housing (20) facing an opposite side (49) of the rotor, wherein the rotor is urged into engagement with the stationary housing when either of the first and second brake plates engages one of the annular zones of the rotor.
10. The brake according to claim 9, wherein the first and second brake plates have generally semi-annular braking surfaces that oppose different sectors of the one side of the rotor
11. The brake according to claim 9, further comprising two concentric annular front brake linings (46), each disposed on a different one of the annular zones of the rotor.